

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01474 171156Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 NEAE-00 /031 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIRORITY 6094

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : MASS, TC
SUBJECT : C-130 TRAINING UAE

REF: STATE 110190

1. EMBASSY MOST APPRECIATIVE OF COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE REFTEL ON SUBJECT UAE AIR FORCE (AF) REQUEST FOR C-130 TRAINING. DCM MET MAY 17 WITH COL. MUHAMMAD ABDUL RAHMAN, ACTING COMMANDER AF AND LT. COL. SAAD WHO IS ACTING DIRECTOR OF TRAINING GHQ (COL. TALAL TEMPORARILY OUT OF COUNTRY). DCM PRESENTED MEMO OUTLINING KEY POINTS REFTEL INCLUDING PROPOSED TRAINING SCHEDULE FOR PILOTS AND LOADMASTERS. HE LIKEWISE EXPLAINED REASONING BEHIND INSISTING ON FULL ELT. COL. ABDEL RAHMAN WAS CLEARLY CONCERNED AT AMOUNT OF TIME INVOLVED--AT PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY HAVING PILOTS GONE FOR SUCH EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME. BUT HE AT LEAST UNDERSTOOD--IF HE DID NOT FULLY ACCEPT--DCM'S EXPLANATION. HE STATED THAT HE WOULD REVIEW PROPOSAL, TALK TO COL. TALAL ON HIS RETURN IN FEW DAYS AND THEN APPROACH GEN. KHALDI FOR FINAL DECISION. HE STATED THAT WE SHOULD HAVE ANSWER BY MAY 24/25.

2. DCM PUT OUT TENTATIVE FEELER ON MTM, SPECIFICALLY AVOIDING ANY COMMITMENT. THIS RAISED PARTICULARLY IN CONTEXT OF LOADMASTER TRAINING WHERE IT IS OUR IM-
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PRESSION THAT ELT PERIODS ARE SO LONG THAT IT MOST UNLIKELY THAT CONUS TRAINING WILL BE ACCEPTED. THIS IDEA SPARKED LITTLE IN WAY OF RESPONSE--COL. ABDUL RAHMAN APPEARS TO RECOGNIZE THAT FORMAL COURSE IN ESTABLISHED MILITARY SCHOOL IS WAY TO PROCEED (HE NOTED THAT LOCKHEED HAD OFFERED TRAINING, BUT THIS HAD BEEN REJECTED IN FAVOR OF MILITARY PROGRAM

WITH PARTICULAR STRESS ON TACTICAL FLYING).

3. COL. ABDUL RAHMAN TOOK INITIATIVE OF RAISING
POSSIBILITIES OF FLIGHT ENGINEER TRAINING. HE SAID
AF HAS ENOUGH NAVIGATORS BUT NOT ENOUGH FLIGHT
ENGINEERS. DCM NOTED THIS QUESTION HAD BEEN PUT BY
WASHINGTON AND THAT HE WOULD SEEK INFORMATION ON
COURSE AVAILABILITY, DURATION, COST ETC. CLEARLY
WHETHER THERE IS REAL INTEREST IN SUCH TRAINING WILL
CENTER ON WHETHER AF WISHES TO MAKE HEAVY INVESTMENT--
IN TERMS OF TIME--IN ELT.

4. COL. ABDUL RAHMAN MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT THEY
WERE INTERESTED IN SENDING TWO MORE PILOTS AS WELL,
THESE TO GO FOUR MONTHS AFTER FIRST FOUR CANDIDATES.
AGAIN KEY QUESTION ON ELT MUST BE ANSWERED FIRST.

5. COMMENT/ACTION REQUESTED: AF CLEARLY WISHES WE HAD
MORE TO OFFER IN WAY OF FLEXIBILITY. ON OTHER HAND
QUALITY OF USAF INSTRUCTION ALSO CLEARLY RECOGNIZED.
THEY HAVE TOUGH DECISION TO MAKE--WE MAKE NO PREDICTIONS.
IN MEANTIME, IF WE COULD GET EVEN PRELIMINARY INFORMATION

ON FLIGHT ENGINEER TRAINING THAT WE MIGHT PASS TO COL.
ABDUL RAHMAN BEFORE HE SEES GEN. KHALDI THIS WOULD
HELP GIVE FULL PICTURE.
DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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